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## FARMS AND FARMING

**Practical Advice on Reconstructing the Dairy Herd (5).**

**Weigh, Test, and Use a Pure-Bred Sire.**

In reply to Oxford County Farmer. These are days of reconstruction on the farm as elsewhere. Our dairymen are finding the need of this work, more particularly with reference to their herds. Herds averaging 4,000 pound milk per cow yearly are unprofitable. The problem is how to make improvement.

The first thing is to find which are the good and which are the poor individuals in the herd. This is best done by adopting a private record system of weighing and testing the milk of each cow. (Blank sheets for weighing milk are furnished free by the Department of Agriculture, Toronto). Or, join a cow-testing association according to rules which will be sent free on making application to the Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa. This will furnish a basis for selection of the animals at present in the herd. No cow should be retained which does not produce at least 6,000 pounds milk, or make 250 pounds butter in a year, which is equal to about 200 pounds "butter fat."

The next thing to do is, either to buy, or secure the services of a pure-bred dairy sire, to which the best cows may be bred. If it is felt that the owner cannot afford to buy and keep a male for his herd, then he should join with his neighbours and co-operatively buy the best animal they can get, according to money available. The heifers from this breeding should be carefully reared and be bred to freshen when about two and one-half years old. Their milk should always be weighed and tested, and the best ones selected. The heifers from these should be selected. In every case they should be bred to an animal of the breed which was used at the beginning. Do not mix the breeds.

Since Shorthorn and Holstein blood is found in the herd at present, I would advise the use of a pure-bred Holstein sire, as this will "nick" best with the Holstein blood and mixes well with the blood of grade Shorthorns.

By following this plan, there is no reason why a herd of cows averaging 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of milk each in a year may not be built up. It will take time, but it is worth the money and is the only way to secure such a herd, except by purchase, which is a quicker but more expensive plan.—**PROFESSOR H. H. DEAN, Guelph, in "Canadian Farm."**

**Screenings for Hogs.**

That screenings are fully equal to barley in finishing pigs, has been demonstrated by the Brandon Experimental Farm, according to "Farm and Dairy." The screenings used are graded as "Standard Stock Feed," formerly known as "Grade A" screenings, and consist chiefly of broken and shrunken wheat and wild buckwheat, with small amounts of wild and tame oats, flax and other edible seeds.

In the test referred to, these screenings were tested against good barley chop. Both these feeds were fed alone and also with shorts and with feed flour. All lots of the

pigs were given a small amount of digestive tankage and a little slack coal. The hogs were fed by hand and were given exactly what they would clean up. Both Yorkshires and Berkshires of a very uniform type were used.

The average results from the six lots for which screenings were the main feed are :—  
Average daily gain per pig, 1.54 lbs.

Lbs. of grain to 100 lbs. gain of pork, 453 lbs.

Costs of 100 lbs. gain, \$10.34.

The average results from the six lots for which barley was the main feed are :—

Average daily gain per pig, 1.5 lbs.

Lbs. of grain to 100 lbs. gain of pork, 446 lbs.

Cost of 100 lbs. gain, \$10.68.

The hogs on screenings ate more than those on barley, indicating that the feed is more palatable than barley. They made slightly larger gains, but used slightly more feed to do it. The cost of gains was practically identical.

"Standard Stock Feed" is for sale through the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, or the Feed Division, Live Stock Branch, Ottawa. The price has just been reduced to \$25 per ton, in car lots unground, f.o.b. Fort William, at which port there are now 4,000 tons on hand. Considering the shortage of grain feeds, this feed is worthy of trial.—C.A.G.

**Why Hatch Early? By H. W. Sanborn.**

It is necessary to hatch early or obtain early hatched chicks in order to receive worth-while profits from poultry keeping.

Early hatching means more vigorous chicks.

Early hatching means more chicks raised.

Early hatching means chicks less troubled by lice and disease.

Early hatching means a longer growing season.

Early hatching means better grown chicks.

Early hatching means higher prices for the surplus and for cockerels marketed as broilers.

Early hatching means well-matured pullets which begin to lay in the fall.

Early hatching means eggs from the pullets while the hens are moulting.

Early hatching means eggs in the fall and winter when prices are highest.

Early hatching means larger profits.

This is everyone's opportunity. Don't miss it this year. Hatch early and provide suitable brooder equipment to keep the little chicks warm. They live and grow much faster. It pays.

NOTE.—It is well to remember that even in early hatching we can get "too much of a good thing." There is a danger in hatching any breed before March 15th. The nearer we can come to the early dates, however, the more satisfactory will be the winter egg yield.—The Editors, "Farm and Dairy."

Seager Wheeler, the noted Saskatchewan wheat grower, has developed a variety of wheat that is claimed to mature ten days earlier than the famous Marquis wheat, and is, therefore, practically immune from rust and early frost in the Prairies.—"CONSERVATION."